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## THE COST OF AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS IN ROUMANIA

To THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Foreseeing the high soar of science in the United States and desiring to be acquainted with the scientific events in that country and to pursue the activity of my numerous American friends and acquaintances, I have been for twenty years a subscriber to SCIENCE.

In December last, I renewed my subscription of seven dollars, which cost now in Roumanian money 595 lei instead of 35 lei in 1914.

In the university library of Cluj, otherwise well furnished, and in the libraries of the various institutes, the American publications are almost completely wanting; in the laboratories and clinics of our university there is no instrument or apparatus of American fabrication. The Hungarian administration, that had governed this university until 1919, had not yet discovered America.

The leaders and professors of the actual Roumanian University are very desirous to acquire the American books and periodicals; they would like to make use of the best instruments and apparatus constructed in the United States. They can not conceive that a modern and progressive university, as theirs, should lack the intellectual and technical co-operation of the American science.

But a microtome "Spencer" cost me 15,000 lei and a binocular "Spencer" 12,000 lei, to which must be added the transport and insurance expenses, etc.

There is no scientific institute that could afford such an expenditure, and no Roumanian institution can make "scientific purchases" in the United States as long as the dollar is worth 90 lei.

I take leave to draw the attention of the readers of your journal to this sad result of the world's war and to ask them if there might not be found any means to cure this evil, which is detrimental to both our nations.

I have great hopes that from the American practical spirit and high love of science will spring the best solution of this great difficulty and therefore I beg the editor of SCIENCE to

open its columns to the study of that question.

I am at the disposal of the readers of SCIENCE who would desire any explanation about our university and who would like to transmit us directly their ideas or propositions.

E. G. RACOVITZA,

*University professor, director of the  
Institute of Speology*

UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ,  
ROUMANIA

## REQUESTS FOR BIOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

PROFESSOR CARL J. CORI has resumed his academic relations with the German university at Prague, Czecho-Slovak republic, in consequence of the transfer of the Marine Biological Station at Trieste, of which he was formerly director, from Austrian to Italian control. He desires to receive reprints and other biological works, especially those published since the outbreak of the war, which American biologists may wish to send him, at the Zoological Institute of the German university at Prague.

CHARLES A. KOFOID

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Root Development in the Grassland Formation, a Correlation of the Root Systems of Native Vegetation and Crop Plants.* By JOHN E. WEAVER. Carnegie Inst. Washington Publ. 292. 18 × 26 cm., 151 pp., 25 pl., 39 text fig. Washington, 1920.

Students of plant physiology, ecology, agriculture and forestry, when they have taken occasion to survey the general field in which their own particular interests lay, must often have been greatly impressed with the extreme paucity of our knowledge of plant roots. Plant species have been described and redescribed, typical individuals have been photographed and painted, and thousands of pages in our libraries are devoted to the results of these descriptive studies and to their theoretical interpretation—but the far greater part of our accumulated knowledge of higher plants is closely confined to those portions of the plants that are readily seen and may be